

# Perspectives

on International Health Research

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# Do we really need International Research?

- 2 million persons cross internationally borders **daily** <sup>(1, 2)</sup>
- 20 million Latin Americans live outside the country of their birth <sup>(3)</sup>
- Globalization has changed the world for the better and for the worse. <sup>(4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,12)</sup>

# Presumption of Partnerships

What types of partnerships...?

# Who should be our partners?

At UM, we look for other Universities as our primary partners in research.

- By strengthening research infrastructure in universities we promote sustainability.
- And we have the best chance to remove political & “for profit” motives.

But we look to bring others into the partnership.

# Other Partners

1. Non-government organizations (NGOs)
2. Foundations
3. Policy-makers
4. Other scientists
5. Citizens
6. Any other stakeholders

# Two Ethical Principles of International Research Drive our Partnerships

- Research should benefit the area in which it takes place <sup>(13)</sup> ; and
- Such research should be useful. <sup>(17)</sup>

*Let's look at just some of the benefits of these partnerships . . .*



- 
- Facilitates access to diverse populations;
  - Extends the usefulness of the research;
  - Helps the visiting partner understand the setting of the research;
  - Adds the culturally marginalized;
  - Empowers local persons and communities;
  - Assists in data interpretation;
  - Promotes dissemination; and
  - Builds local support, training, and infrastructure.

# Who should benefit from the research?

- Local area—beyond the researchers themselves.
- But generalizable to the global community.



# Dissemination

No research project is completed until the findings are disseminated--locally and internationally.

Thus the need for the many partnerships just discussed, presumably those who help steer the research have a use for it, and they will disseminate it locally.

# Science PLUS?

Is science enough?

What is the scientist's role regarding the use of the findings? (17, 21-31)

# **“Research to Policy and Practice” is a Global Priority**

*World Health Organization*

***2004 Report: Knowledge for Better Health***

Calls for a careful study to find ways to incorporate research findings into policy and practice.

# Who Sets the Priorities for the Research?

In reality, is it the funder...?

In a second reality, is it the larger, richer university...?

In the ideal setting, the partners, with mutual equity, set the priorities.

# Who Makes the Rules?

- “Science” makes many of them.
- “Ethics” makes many of them.
- The funder makes many of them.
- The research partners together should determine the totality.

But the **IMPORTANT** thing is:

**The RULES are discussed,  
understood, and agreed upon  
from the beginning.**





- (1) See: <http://www.world-tourism.org/index.htm>, World Tourism Organization.
- (2) See the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission website at [http://www.borderhealth.org/border\\_region.php](http://www.borderhealth.org/border_region.php).
- (3)  
See: [http://www.iom.int/DOCUMENTS/PUBLICATION/EN/MPI\\_series\\_No\\_2\\_eng.pdf](http://www.iom.int/DOCUMENTS/PUBLICATION/EN/MPI_series_No_2_eng.pdf), IOM--International Organization for Migration.
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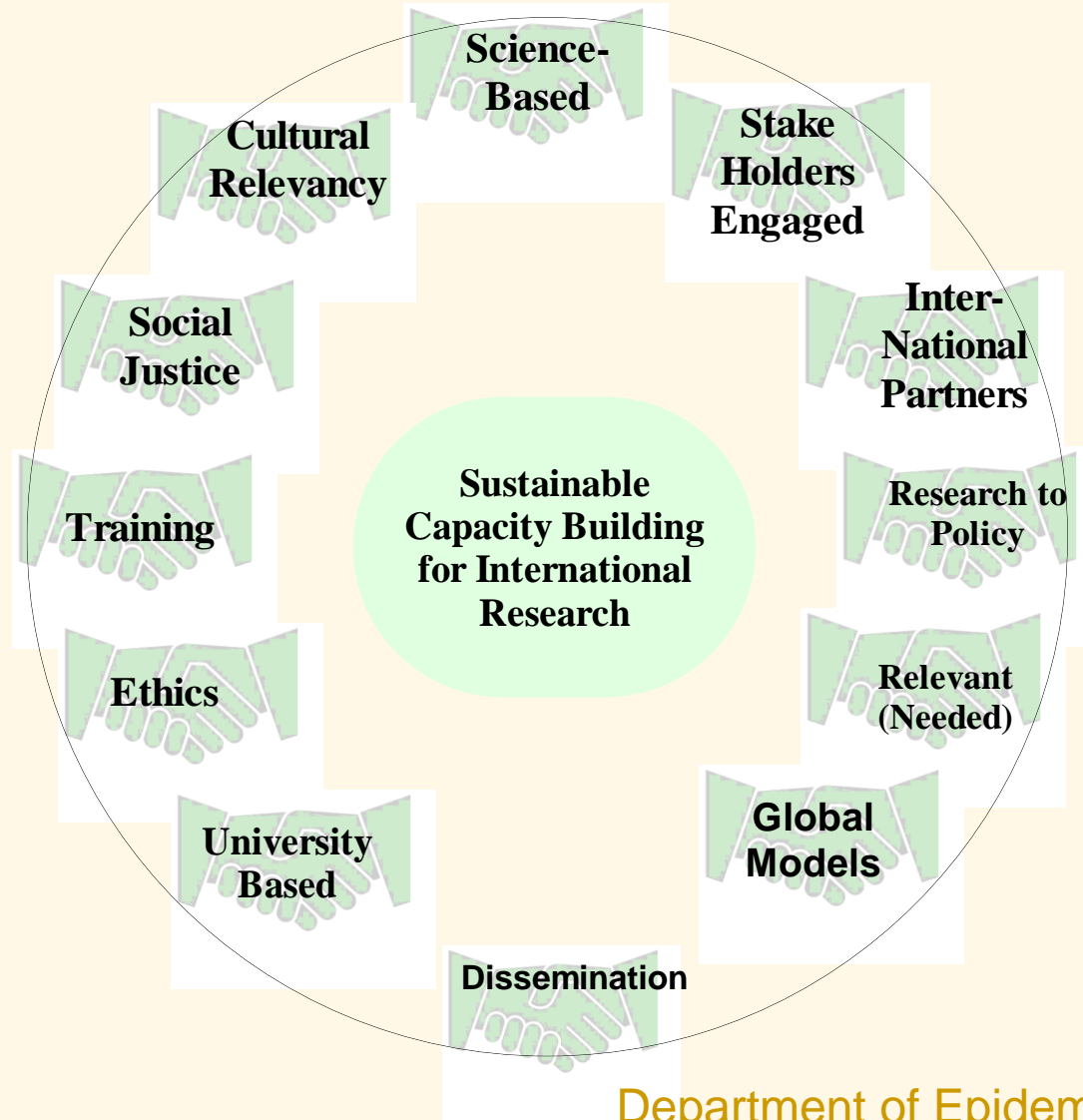
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# Principles of International Research



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